A Woman near Guildford in Surrey having been delivered of 7 creatures resembling rabbits, last Friday Mr André, the kings surgeon and anatomist went down thither to see them. They are preserved in spirits.

Parkers Penny Post. 14. Nov. 1726

From Guildford comes a strange, but well attested piece of news that a poor woman who lives at Godalmin near that town who has an husband and two children now living with her was about a month past delivered by Mr John Howard an eminent surgeon and manmidwife living at Guildford of a creature resembling a rabbit, but whose heart and lungs grew without its belly. About 14 days since she was delivered by the same person of a perfect rabbit and in a few days after of 4 more, and on friday, saturday and sunday the. 4. 5. and 6 instant of one in each day, in all nine. They died all in bringing into the world. Mr Howard keeps them all in spirits, and we hear he intends to present them to the Royal Society. The woman hath made oath, that 2 months ago, being working in a field with other women they put up a rabbit, who running from them they pursued it but to no purpose. This created in her such a longing to it, that she (being with child) was taken ill and miscarried, and from that time she hath not been able to avoid thinking of rabbits.

Daily Journal. 14. Nov. 1726.

Same statement. London Journal
19 Nov. 1726.

Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer 19 Nov. 1726 adds. "The said woman has been delivered of 5 more rabbits, in all 14. Mr. Molineux the Prince's Secretary is we hear gone thither by his royal highness order to bring a faithful narrative of the affair."

Mists Weekly Journal. 19 Nov. 1726. for this addition substitutes. "People after all differ much in their opinion about this matter, some looking upon them as great curiosities fit to be presented to the royal Society, &c. Others are angry at the account and say that if it be fact, a veil should be drawn over it, as an imperfection in human nature." The paragraph mentioning Mr. Howard is omitted.

The following is an abstract of part of a letter from Mr John Howard, surgeon and manmidwife in Guildford to a relation of his in London. (relating to the monstrous births near Guildford. Parkers Penny post 28. Nov.).
Guildford 22. Nov. 1726. This morning I delivered the poor woman in Guildford of the 17th rabbit - which I believe may be the last. On Sunday I had in his coach Mr Ahlers surgeon to the kings hous hold he came by the kings orders, he took part of the 16th rabbit from her and carried it to kensington. He was to have staid till all was over, but being taken ill returned the same night. Last Saturday I had Mr S'André his Majesty's Anatomist, by the

kings orders, who took part of one from her, which weighed 22 ounces, and were both satisfied in the truth of the wondrous delivery, as was Mr. Molineux secretary to the Prince, who was also here. I hear they have made their report to the King and the Prince.

Daily Journal. 26 Nov. 1726.

so that the truth of this monstrous produce of nature mentioned in this paper a few days since, is not to be doubted of.

Parkers Penny Post. 28 Nov. 1726

On tuesday night the woman who hath been delivered of so many rabbits at Godalmin was by order of his Majesty brought to town and lodged in the bagnio in Leicester fields. Sir Richard Manningham, Mr. St Andre and Mr. Howard came with her: Great numbers of the nobility have been to see her and many physicians have attended her in order to make a strict search into the affair; another birth being soon expected.

Daily Journal 2. Dec. 1726
London Journal 3. Dec. 1726
Parkers Penny Post. 5 Dec. 1726.

The woman that has been delivered of 17 rabbits at Godalmin is come to town by order of his Majesty and is lodged at the Bagnio in Long Acre where there is a good resort to see her and many physicians attend her in order to make a strict search into the affair, another birth being soon expected.

Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer. 3. Dec. 1726

The rabbit-woman of Godalmin near Guildford so much talked of is brought to this city, and lodged at the Bagnio in Leicester-fields and is bringing

forth more and more rabbits. a fine story!! ore dat Iudœus Apella.

British Journal. 3. Dec. 1726.

Rabbits or no rabbits has been the great dispute this week; the extraordinary woman that has been delivered of so many at Godalmin is brought to town by his Majestys order that a strict enquiry may be made into the affair

Mists weekly Journal. 3. Dec. 1726.

On friday night a circumstance appeared in the affair of the woman who hath been delivered of the rabbits (and as yet remains in the Bagnio by Leicester fields) which gave good reason to suspect the whole affair being a cheat on which many persons were examined on Oath relating thereto. as we have said nothing in this affair but what hath been fact; we can assure our readers that its far from being detected but remains as yet as much in the dark as ever. The woman is under management as will soon appear whether this affair hath been forged or not.

Daily Journal 7. Dec.

We are now well informed of what has been said relating to the woman of Godalmin, near Guildford said to be delivered of 16 or 17 rabbits is found to be only a grand imposture and cheat. The matter is now under strict examination some odd discoveries having been made insomuch that she was on Monday in danger of being committed to Bridewell but by the lenity of Sir Thomas Clarges is for a fortnight committed to the custody of the high constable of Westminster pretending she is near her labour of more rabbits. It is

likewise said that the Guildford surgeon, the rabbit-man midwife is bound over. Doctors and surgeons are permitted to see her if they come three in company. The further discoveries of this imposture shall be given as they come to be known which tis believed will afford matter of diversion.

Parkers Penny Post. 7. Dec. 1726.

The woman from Godalmin in Surrey said to have been delivered of seventeen rabbits is continued at the Bagnio in Leicester fields in custody of the high constable of Westminster who hath ordered a petty constable to take care of her. Last wednesday she made a large discovery of the cheat; her confession taking up several sheets of paper: but we hear she refuses to name her confederates till she is assured of his majestys pardon. the Porter belonging to the Bagnio whom she sent to market with all imagenable secrecy to buy the youngest rabbit for her he could get contributed much to the discovery and several noblemen have been very active therein, not willing that so vile an imposture should pass for truth.

British Journal 10. Dec. 1726

— not willing that so vile an imposture, a blemish on human nature, should pass for truth, and as such be inserted in our histories.

Daily Post. 8. Dec. 1726

Weekly journal or Brit. Gazetteer. 10. Dec.

Mists Journal. 10 Dec. ends with "discovery"

The woman from Godalmin who pretended to have been delivered of 17 rabbits and was brought up to town in order to have that affair strictly examined into has been detected an Mr St. Andre the surgeon

who published an account of her wonderful delive
ry has promised a particular account of the fraud
she used and by what means she imposed upon him
and the public. meanwhile we are assured the
woman refuses to make any discovery without a
promise of his majestys pardon for herself and
accomplices.

London Journal 10. Dec. 1726

The examination and confession of Mary, the
wife of Joshua Toft of Godalmin, Clothier, relating
to the pretended delivery of many rabbits having
been laid before his Majesty she was on Thursday
night last committed to Tothill fields Bridewell
where Sir Thomas Clarges, Bart. and Nicholas Paxt
on Esq. went yesterday in the afternoon to exam
ine her farther about that wicked imposture.
A woman at Guildford has had a monstrous
delivery of a child since this abominable contri
vance has been on foot

Daily Journal 10. Dec. 1726
Parkers Penny Post 12 Dec. 1726

Yesterday the rabbit woman from Godalmin in Sur
rey was removed from the Bagnio in Leicester-fields to
Tothill fields Bridewell

Daily Post. 10. Dec. 1726

Having contributed in some measure to the belief
of an imposture in a Narrative lately published by
me of an extraordinary delivery of rabbits perform
ed by Mr Howard surgeon of Guildford and having
been since instrumental in discovering the same
so that I am now thoroughly convinced it is a most
abominable fraud I think myself obliged in strict

regard to truth to acquaint the public thereof, and that I intend in a short time to publish a full account of this discovery with some consider ations on the extraordinary circumstances of this case which misled me in my apprehension there of and which as I hope they will in some mea sure excuse the mistake made by myself and others who have visited the woman concerned therein will also be acceptable to the world in separating the innocent from those who have been actors in this fraud

Dec. 8. 1726 — St André

Daily Journal 9 Dec. 1726
Daily Post — 10 Dec. 1726

Whereas Mr St André in his Narrative lately publish ed of an extraordinary delivery of rabbits has made use of my name. I do hereby declare that this has been done without my knowledge and consent which I never should have given in a matter the truth of which I did not believe.

London. 13 Dec. 1726. — J. Hampe. M.D.

Daily Post. 13. Dec. 1726

Intending in a short time to publish to the world a particular account of all that occurred to my know ledge relating to Mary Toft of Godalming I do now declare I have discovered some circumstances which strongly induce me to believe her an imposture, and that myself as well as Mr St André and others was im posed upon by the cunning artifice of her and her ac complices and that I think myself obliged as far as in me lies to satisfy the world of what has inclined me to believe the whole a notorious cheat; which I hope will convince the world that I am ready to separate the

Last week the entertainment called The Necromancer was performed at the Theatre in Lincolns Inn Fields wherein a new Rabbit scene was introduced by way of episode — by which the public may understand as much of that affair, as by the present controversy among the gentlemen of the faculty who are flinging their bitter pills at one another to convince the world that none of them understand any thing of the matter.

Mists weekly Journal 17 Dec. 1726.

innocent from any that may have been guilty actors therein and do solemnly declare that I shall be always ready to take both my oath and the sacrament that I am entirely clear of having any hand in the imposture but did really believe the truth of the production of the rabbits till lately such discoveries have been made to me of several particular circumstances as convince me that it is a fraud.

Dec. 15. 1726 J. Howard

Daily Post. 19. Dec. 1726

Mary Toft the rabbit woman is ordered to be prosecuted upon a statute of Edward III as a vile cheat and impostor. The learned gentlemen who find themselves mistaken at last in their judgements of that affair are healing their reputations as well as they can by writing of pamphlets.

mists Weekly Journal 17 Dec.

A prosecution is ordered to be carried on in the court of Kings Bench, next Hillary term against Mary Toft of Godalmin for an infamous cheat and imposture in pretending to have brought forth 17 preternatural rabbits. She is still detained a prisoner in Bridewell where none but the keepers wife is permitted to go into the room to deliver anything to her; the infinite crowds of people that resort to see her not being suffered to approach her too near and more especially her husband who is strictly searched when he comes to the prison.

Weekly Journal or British Gazetteer 24. Dec. 1726
British Journal . . . . . 24. " "
London Journal . . . . . 24. " "
Daily Journal . . . . . 20. Dec.
Parkers Penny Post. . . . . 21 Dec.

Several people who have entered into an opinion of the miraculous delivery of the woman of this place seem unwilling to give into the belief of its being a fraud; the nurse has been examined as to the persons concerned with her, but either was kept in the dark as to the imposition, or is not willing to declare what she knows; for nothing can be got from her; so that her resolution shocks others. But we are informed that she and the surgeons apprentice, whose master is admitted to Bail will be sent for to London to be more strictly examined

Guildford, 19. Dec.

Mists weekly Journal, 24. Dec. 1726

At the general quarter sessions of the peace held for the city and liberty of Westminster by adjournment on Saturday last, (7 Jan) Mary Toft charged upon oath for being an abominable cheat and impostor in pretending to be delivered of several monstrous births at several times was brought from Bridewell to the Sessions and was by the court remanded back to Bridewell; and we are informed that there will be an information preferred against her and others the next term for a conspiracy and misdemeanour in contriving & carrying on the aforesaid cheat and that they will be tryed at the next assizes for the county of Surrey.

Mr Howard the surgeon appeared also in court upon his recognizances upon suspicion of being concerned in the said conspiracy and cheat and was obliged to enter into a fresh recognizance of £ 800 to appear and answer the same in the court of kings bench next term.

British Journal, 14. Jan. 1727.

Last Saturday (7 Jan.) the famous rabbit woman of Godalmin was brought up to the sessions at Westminster where the famous surgeon of Guildford appeared

also and, having entered their pleas, the first was sent back to Bridewell and the latter admitted to fresh recognizances in order to take their tryals (we suppose) at the assizes to be held for the county of Surry for a late mysterious piece of iniquity.

Mists weekly Journal. 14 Jan. 1747

Mr. Howard the surgeon of Guildford appeared before the bench of Justices last saturday at Westminster sessions and was obliged to enter into a fresh recognizance of £800 to appear and answer to a charge of his being concerned in the cheat and conspiracy of Mary Tofts the rabbit woman; a constable having made an affadavit of an odd sort of a conversation he heard pass between the said Mr. Howard and Mary Tofts through a partition at the Bagnio in Leicester fields.

Daily Journal 11. Jan. 1727
Parkers Penny Post 13. " "
Weekly Journal. 14 " "

On Monday (23 Jan) (being the first day of term, Weekly Journal 28 Jan) Mr John Howard of Guildford surgeon and madmidwife appeared upon his recognizances at the kings beneth bar at Westminster and was continued on them.

Weekly Journal 28 Jan. 1727
British Journal 28 " "
Daily Journal 24 " "
Parkers Penny Post 25 " "

Mary Tofts the pretended rabbit breeder is now dangerously ill in Bridewell.

Daily Journal 24 Jan. 1727
Parkers Penny Post 25 " "

Mary Tofts the rabbit woman now in Tothill fields Bridewell was not carried to Guildford to be tryed at the assizes there last week as was

expected it being not yet determined what sta
tutes she and her confederates will be hyed up
on. Parkers Penny Post. 29 March 1727.

Mary Toft the pretended rabbit breeder from God
almin in Surrey was last saturday (8 April)
discharged from her recognizances at the Quart
er sessions at Westminster there being no prose
cution Parkers Penny Post 14 Apr. 1727
Weekly Journal 15 " "
British Journal 15 " "
London Journal 15 " "

Last monday (15 May) being the last day of term
Mr John Howard of Guildford surgeon and
manmidwife moved by his counsel to be dis
charged from his recognizances and having
given the usual notice he was accordingly dis
charged without any prosecution
Parkers Penny Post 19 May 1727
Weekly Journal 20 " "
British Journal 20 " "

The same day (18 May) there was a tryal in
the court of Common Pleas at Westminster be
tween Mr Lacy Master of the Bagnio in Leices
ter fields Plaintiff and Mr. Sandre the surgeon
defendant in relation to a bill of charge brought
by the former for lodging diet and expences at
tending the affair of the pretended rabbit wo
man. The jury gave a verdict for Mr. Lacy with
£56. 14..10 damage.
London Journal 20 May 1727
British Journal " " "
Parkers Penny Post. 22 " "

The celebrated lab.. woman of Godalmin in Surrey was committed to Guildford Gaol for receiving stolen goods.

Weekly miscellany 19 Ap. 1740

'Last week died at Godalming in Surrey, Mary Toft, formerly noted for an imposition of breeding Rabbits.

Gazetteer or Daily London Advertiser
21. Jan. 1763.

Concerning the Rabbits is now published

The true account how it really happened that the woman at Godliman, near Guildford in Surry could have eighteen real true and living rabbits within her, and of which she was really and truly delivered lately by Mr Howard, surgeon and man midwife of Guildford and Mr Slendre, Surgeon to the king. 'Tis given gratis up one pair of stairs at the Anodyne necklace for childrens teeth over against Deverenx Court, without Temple Bar, and by the authors servant R. Bradshaw at the Golden key by Russell Street end, St Giles in the fields.

Mist's Weekly Journal 10 Dec. 1726

at the end of an advertisement of this Anodyne necklace &c follows." Where is given gratis the account of the whole affair of the rabbits and the pictures of the woman herself, Mary Toft, and the rabbits, and of the persons who attended her during her pretended deliveries"

Mist's Weekly Journal 17 Dec. 1726

The rabbit affair made clear, in a full account of the whole matter, with the pictures engraved of the pretended rabbit breeder herself, Mary Toft, and of the rabbits and of the persons who attended her during her pretended delivery shewing who were and who were not imposed upon by her. 'Tis given gratis" &c as in former advertisements.

Mist's Journal 14 Jan. 1727.

The original drawing from which the Plate promised in Mist's Journal was taken, remained in the possession of Mr James Vertue, and was probably designed by his brother George. It was sold in 1781 in the collection of George Scott. Esq. of Chigwell in Essex, together with eight tracts relative to the same

imposture, for three guineas, and is now in the collection of Mr. Gough.

Nichols Genuine Works of Hogarth. V. 2. p. 51.

Nichols is here mistaken; the drawing which is, with Mr Goughs collection, in the Bodleian, is that afterwards engraved and called "The Surrey Wonder."

The print mentioned in the Anodyne necklace advertisement, and which was perhaps the first published upon this subject, I have never seen; but I have a MSS copy of what is called a very rare tract at the top of which is a small drawing. I suspect these to be the Tract and picture mentioned in the advertisement. E.H. I have since seen the original tract in Mr Stevens collection of the Tost pamphlets. E.H.

This day is published, printed from a copper plate, The Surrey Wonder, an anatomical Farce, as it was dissected at the Theatre in Lincolns Inn fields

The mountains laboured and the mouse crept forth

Printed and sold by J Clark, engraver and print seller in Grays Inn, London. Where may be had, another print on this subject, with a great variety of Maps, paints and drawings.

Mists Journal Dec. 31. 1726.

The other print mentioned in the advertisement is probably the one where M. Pelit is delivering a letter to Dr Meagre, which was also published by J. Clark.

The fourth print published was probably Hogarths. Cunicularii or The wise men of Godliman in consultation

They held their Talents most adroit
For any mystical Exploit.

The next print was probably "The Doctors in labour; or a New Whim Wham from Guildford. Being a representation of the Frauds by which the Godliman woman carried on her pretended rabbit breeding; also of the simplicity of our Doctors, by which they assisted to carry on that imposture, discovered their own skill, & contributed to the mirth of his Majesties Liege Subjects". It exhibits in twelve compartments the progress and principal circumstances in this celebrated imposture.

The pretended rabbit-breeder, in order to perpetuate her fame, has had her picture done in a curious mezzotinto print by an able hand.

Mists Journal 21 Jan. 1727.

It was painted by Laguerre and scraped by Faber. She has a rabbit on her lap, and displays a countenance of the utmost vulgarity.

Nichols Hogarth. V. II. p. 52.

The Surrey Wonder is supposed to have been suppressed because one of the figures bore a resemblance to Frederick Prince of Wales.